



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, DIVISION WEST (FIRST ARMY)
BLDG 410, 761ST TANK BATTALION AVE
FORT HOOD, TX 76544-5024

AFKA-DVW-CG

APR 23 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Holiday Message

1. Since 1868, Americans have celebrated Memorial Day to honor those who fought and died to preserve our freedom. We set aside one day each year to pause and reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe to the brave patriots who stood for the defense of liberty and when demanded, they made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation. Despite our success in our Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), those who wish to inflict harm on our nation because of our ideals are still lurking, still planning, and still plotting to steal our American spirit. Leaders at all ranks need to stop and talk to their Soldiers about the importance of Memorial Day. On this Memorial Day, we remember those who have given their lives for that spirit, in the name of freedom and democracy, but we also remember and honor those still fighting to protect it. Dedicate time to praise and remember our Fallen Comrades, and take the time to express how important our Mission is and to highlight the contribution of all Division West Soldiers, Civilians and Family members.

2. Memorial Day weekend is also the start of the summer months. Many Soldiers and Civilians will celebrate this holiday with barbecues, picnics, parades, and extended travel plans. As outdoor activities increase we must instill effective risk mitigation in our Soldiers, Civilian and Family members as they plan their holiday and summer activities. In April 2010, the US Army launched the 2010 Safe Spring/Summer campaign, which stresses the importance of proactive, prevention-focused risk mitigation during the summer months. Many of you are aware that 1 May through 30 September are cause for concern, as this is historically a time when we see an escalation in our off-duty fatalities, particularly in privately owned vehicles and on motorcycles. Please visit the Division West Safety Portal in the shared documents area (login with your AKO account) and click on the 2010 Army Summer Safety Campaign or Combat Readiness Center's website (<https://safety.army.mil>) and click on the 2010 Safe Spring/Summer Campaign. The website has feature articles, posters and videos focusing on more than 20 summer safety topics to help you build a successful summer safety program.

3. At a minimum, all First-line Supervisors/Leaders will ensure all Soldiers traveling by or operating a privately owned vehicle (POV) or motorcycle (POM) on pass or leave will comply with the Division West's Pass and Leave Policy, complete the Travel Risks Planning System (TRiPS) and conduct POV inspections prior to pass or leave. Leaders will brief every Soldier and Civilian on holiday hazards and counter-measures they can take to avoid mishaps ensuring they stress the use of seatbelts, PPE, hands-free phone devices, and the hazards of drinking and driving.

4. "Safety First in the West."


CHARLES A. ANDERSON
Major General, USA
Commanding

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